

# Staines Road Surgery

## Archiving, Disposal and Storing of Records Policy and Procedure Example and addendum to Data Handling Policy as part of IG Toolkit

### Purpose

- To ensure compliance with statutory and insurer's requirements on information archive.
- To comply with statutory requirements for confidentiality.

### Access

- All patients, employees', financial, health and safety and maintenance records of the Practice.

### Policy

- Records will be archived and stored in a manner which complies with statutes, regulations and insurance requirements, held in secure and safe storage, and are retrievable.
- Documents and other media will be disposed of in a manner which protects confidentiality.

### Procedure

- All archived records which contain the name and/or personal details of a Patient or employee will be stored with the same security restrictions as if they were live. Documents which require locked storage and/or restricted access when live must be similarly protected when archived.
- Retention and storage:
  - Staff rota records will be archived in a safe place, with the contents recorded on the outer package, and retained for 20 years.
  - Records of agency staff will be archived in a safe place, with the contents recorded on the outer package, and retained for 20 years.
  - Records of Fire practices, tests of equipment and remedial actions will be archived in a safe place, with the contents recorded on the outer package, and retained for three years.
  - Records of all visitors will be archived in a safe place, with the contents recorded on the outer package, and retained for three years.
  - Patients records will be archived in a safe place, with the name of the Patient recorded on the outer packaging, for a period of 20 years.
  - Employee records will be archived in a safe place, with the name of the employee recorded on the outer packaging, for a period of 20 years.
  - Accounting records will be archived in a safe place, with the financial year recorded on the outer packaging, for a period of 7 years.

- Company legal records will be archived in a safe place, financial year recorded on the outer packaging, for a period of 7 years.
- Health and Safety records will be archived in a safe place, with the contents recorded on the outer packaging, for a period of 20 years.
- Maintenance records will be archived in a safe place, with the contents recorded on the outer packaging, for a period of 20 years.
  
- Disposal of documents:
  - Any document which may identify or allow the identification of any person and/or contains personal information must be shredded before disposal.
  - A cross cut shredder is the preferred method of disposal; failing that, a fine cut single pass shredder must be used.
  - A shredder must be supplied at all locations within the establishment wherein documentation is separated out for disposal, in order to reduce the risk of whole stored documents being erroneously disposed of whilst in transit.
  - For establishments with large volumes of documentation disposal, the preferred method will be disposal through a registered document disposal contractor which shreds the documentation on site where the process can be monitored by the establishment.
  
- Disposal of electronically stored data:
  - Computer hard drives which may contain personal information must be wiped clean before disposal or sale using appropriate “shredding” software. Deleting files does not provide sufficient safeguards.
  - Other data storage media which may contain personal information, such as memory sticks, must have the data overwritten in a manner that fills the drive before disposal or sale, preferably using specialist software.
  - Optical storage media which may contain personal information, such as CDs and DVDs, must be physically destroyed before disposal.
  - Magnetic storage media which may contain personal information, such as tapes, must be physically destroyed before disposal.
  - If in doubt, physically destroy the data storage media.